

A Beginners Guide to Neighbourhood Watch



In essence a watch scheme is the bringing together of responsible members of local communities to look out for each other, and to work in partnership with the police to prevent and deter crime.

Neighbourhood Watch is a charitable organisation formed in 1982 with the aim to support community groups both large and small, with members from all backgrounds and walks of life, equally and without preference or prejudice to make our neighbourhoods safer.

Working together for a safer neighbourhood

It is by adding your eyes, ears and voice in our combined effort to tackle criminal, suspicious and anti-social behaviour in our communities that we can make our neighbourhoods a safer place and reduce the risk of becoming victims of crime.

Neighbourhood Watch has always been closely associated with the police, for some people and police officers, Neighbourhood Watch is a part of the police.

This is not the case as the police are the police and you and your neighbours are Neighbourhood Watch.

You will be joining a national organisation, with other schemes in your local area, here in West Mercia we also provide local information on our network of Facebook pages that already reaches 400,000 to 500,000 people each month in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire.

Neighbourhood Watch is closely supported by West Mercia police and together we can make a difference. We cannot have a police officer on every street corner, and you are more likely to recognise something unusual or suspicious.

What do you need to do?

In brief, be a good neighbour. That means being alert to what is happening in the local area and responding to it.

If you can follow your local Official West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page, and keep up to date with what is going on.

Look for the distinctive logo





When you see or hear something suspicious or out of the ordinary, report it to the police or your local coordinator, and email or message your local Official Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page.

When contacting the police, if the crime or suspicious behaviour is happening right now, it is ok to call 999, otherwise call 101. It can sometimes take a little while to get through but please persist.

You can also call **CRIMESTOPPERS** anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Whatever happens do not put your own safety at risk – never “have a go”

As a member of Neighbourhood Watch you are not there to take over policing your neighbourhood, but assist the police by providing accurate reliable information so that they can do their job.

To catch and convict criminals the law requires evidence and proof of guilt, information you might be able to provide may make the difference.

Its FREE to join

Simply register via www.westmercianw.org.uk or www.ourwatch.org.uk

You can check the website to see if there is a scheme already registered for your neighbourhood, you do not need to be in a scheme to be a member.

If you want to start a scheme see our “Guide to starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme”

All members qualify for free Public Liability Insurance covered for their NW activity to the value of £10,000,000, plus regular updates and guidance on a range of topics from Neighbourhood Watch West Merica, National and partner organisations.

For more information you can

Email: enquiries@westmercianw.org.uk

Facebook message: [@westmercianw](https://www.facebook.com/@westmercianw)

Web: *search for* [west mercia neighbourhood watch](https://www.facebook.com/westmercianw)